

## **Suicide Bombing Reflecting on the Logic of Resistance in the Contemporary World**

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### **Abstract**

Dealing with war studies, one wonders how to tackle with a variety of approaches involved during pre-historic period and in the modern globalized world. Regardless the fact that the world is packed with modern sophisticated weapons, it is suicide bombing (SB) that seems to haunt the people everywhere in the world. This paper aims at analyzing SB as a resisting force. It tries to unearth the factors and scenarios that forces individuals and groups to use SB as an ultimate tool to achieve their objectives. The paper also throws light on the twin simmering issues of SB and martyrdom. The paper attempts to segregate martyrdom from SB and terrorism and silence those quarters who attach terror with Islam for their personal objectives. Besides, the paper attempts to answer the question as why the act of powerful is justified while the act of weak and deprived is labeled as terrorism? Moreover, the paper also aims at bringing to limelight the horrible consequences of SB in the world in general and in the war-torn countries in particular.

**Keywords:** Suicide Bombing, resistance, violence depicting, fanatics

### **Introduction**

The world's peace has been plagued by perpetual war. The conflicts based on clash of interests or beliefs; always cause huge amount of violence, human casualties and destruction of resources and infrastructure. No doubt, war is horrible and devastating in all its forms and manifestations. However, its dynamics have changed in the contemporary world influencing socio-cultural and religio-political spheres of nation-states considerably. War is on at state, community and individual level making it a general condition of world's affairs.<sup>1</sup>Therefore, struggle against the occupational forces, aggressors or even against an illegitimate government or terrorists and insurgents, is dealt in a number of ways. Different tactics and techniques are used by perpetrators of violence depicting a form of resistance. Similarly, a variety of tools are employed

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by different players to achieve desired objectives. Thus we are confronted with a variety of combating situations especially SB which is of a unique nature.

Nonetheless, suicide and SB are two different things. Suicide is restricted to a single individual. On the contrary, SB is a well-planned scheme aims at ending one's life intentionally, while simultaneously taking with him lives of his enemies, with the use of explosives, resulting from the adverse effects of bio-power and necro-politics. The harsh attitude of the sovereign and the unjust distribution of resources mobilize the people and intensify their ideas of putting an end to one's life intentionally – committing suicide. But committing suicide is a harmless idea as far as other human beings are concerned or even not concerned. The crux of the matter is the manipulation of suicide, reinforced via explosives, with the main aim to terrify and destroy the enemy. Thus, SB is the combination of two different entities i.e. the individual and the explosives or the man and the bomb that transforms into a single entity – Suicide Bomber. Furthermore, a suicide bomber is a sick person, cleverly brain-washed by some terrorist organizations, agencies or religious fanatics. Mostly, the teenagers are involved in SB as they can be easily misguided. A successful suicide attack depends on three factors: firstly willing persons (suicide bomber), secondly handlers (usually the masterminds or organizations to groom and employ them), and thirdly a society ready to take such moves as great deeds.<sup>2</sup>With a fresh wave of religious extremism and terrorism, today it is considered as an endemic problem haunting people. Besides spreading terror in people and states, it provokes anti-state sentiments in masses. Consequently, entice the people to revolt and retaliate. By creating chaos and injecting terror in society, the people start to feel insecure. At the same time, the state and its agencies, in their bid to combat SB, initiate some security measures. Check-posts are erected to restrict movement of suicide bomber. In this regard, the common people suffer as a constant fear chases them anywhere they move. They have to go through body search which at times proves troublesome and insulting. National and international wars, internal and external disputes, social injustices, economic deprivation and religious fanaticism promote SB. It is a horrible shape of violence used to spread terror. Its objective is not only to take lives but to force those who are supposed to protect those lives. Ironically, bombardment of a city causing huge casualties does not inject that much fear which is felt when an individual blow up himself in a busy street. SB is one of the horrible miseries of conflicting zones. Around the world, anywhere people are faced with the menace of SB, they have been earlier devastated by war. War like a living cell, divide and re-divide giving birth to its replicas like violence, terror and destruction. SB is a by-product of war and a worst form of resistance.

### Literature Review

No doubt, suicide terrorism is a crime against humanity. To Pape, SB is the most belligerent kind of terrorism, compared to illustrative or destructive terrorisms suggests that its intent is to put to death the maximum number of enemies or rival group.<sup>3</sup> According to Pedahzur, suicide attacks are intended to produce an ambiance of affright and to hurt as many people as possible, mostly civilians.<sup>4</sup> SB is the weapon of low tech adversaries. In case a suicide bomber changes his mind at the eleventh hour, he can abruptly moves around, to a new prey, this is very cogent.<sup>5</sup> It is highly unlikely at times to detect him and once committed, it is almost impossible to stop a suicide bomber from blowing himself up mostly as close to the target as possible. Thus a successful suicide attack defines by the U.S Congressional Research Service of the library of congress is: events where the success of the operation cannot occur without the death of the culprit and he/she is ostensibly mindful of this in advance.<sup>6</sup> SB or suicide attacks have been described as a tool of psychological warfare by Hutchinson.<sup>7</sup> The aim of SB is to destabilize the governments and infuse terror and fear in the targeted population.<sup>8</sup> A suicide bomber always tries to widen the area of influence of blowing himself to cause huge loss of human lives and property. What really makes suicide a more horrible and catastrophic activity is the extension of the heinous act to a terrorist or military campaign. As a terrorist campaign, the target of suicide bomber varies. Depending upon the objectives of the suicide bomber, its target might be state buildings, armed forces or civilians. Likewise, a suicide bomber may be an individual; a group like *Hezbollah Fidaeen* or *Taliban* or any other terrorist organization or agency. Personal intents or temptations can run mainly, from revenge for the death of a family member like the "Black Widows," in Chechnya (female suicide bombers) to outrage against an occupying power like in Iraq or the Palestinian territories or against some incident for instance the abuse of prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq to compulsion or even the payment of money to one's family as has occurred in Afghanistan and elsewhere.<sup>9</sup>

A number of terrorist organizations like Al-Qaeda, ISIS and TTP use suicide bombers as their lethal weapon. Their existence depend upon the number of suicide attacks made anywhere in the world. Thus SB provides lifeline to terrorist networks and band organizations. Such incidents are highlighted in the media and serve the very purpose of spreading terror even to those quarters which are not directly the target of a particular suicide attack. As a military campaign, the use of suicide tactics is quite rare and adopted by the state military against the rival state. This issue has been further complicated by the dual role of some responsible states. Nevertheless, some states are accused for sponsoring terror and they also fund one terrorist network or the other. This old tactic has caused havoc

throughout the world. It is considered as a threat to peace and security globally. Though it is a global issue and each country of the world has suffered one way or the other, yet those countries involved in WOT; have become the main target of SB.

SB is generally considered as an act of terrorism or violence perpetrated by an individual, group or any organization. However, the relationship between SB and terrorism need to be flushed out. Terrorism is "the deliberate and well-measured manipulation of illegal violence or threat of illegal violence to infuse fright and terror; aiming to force or to warn governments or societies in quest of goals that are mostly religious, ideological or political."<sup>10</sup> Terrorism is a broad term while SB is a part of it, a tactic used to cause terror. The end of SB is not the end of terrorism but the end of terrorism can be a possible end to SB. All SB is terrorism but all terrorism is not necessarily done through SB. SB is in fact one aspect of terrorism. Accordingly, terrorism is, and should be considered as the root cause of introducing and promoting violence. SB is carried out in reaction to other terrorist activities and hence it is itself not the cause.

The inhumane so called WOT and avarice to control more and more resources has certainly radicalized the people a great deal. Consequently, the whole scenario gives birth to a mind-set of revenge and dehumanization and SB is adopted as a powerful tool to fight even a state. Thus such an extremist approach has jeopardized the whole chemistry of the world's politics and social setup. Likewise, it means SB is also one of the indicators that reflect socio-economic constraints, injustice, intolerance and rigidity in belief, cultural norms and values. Factors like these, ultimately paves way for violence, terror and SB. Yet SB is considered as the worst form of terror and the hallmark of resistance. In the modern era, the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the U.S revived the trend of suicide terrorism. Suicidal tactics born of despair in war while SB is designedly employed by terrorists for calculated political outcome.<sup>11</sup>

Historically speaking, suicide attacks are not a new phenomenon; these kinds of attacks were in use in ancient times. Even suicide tactics were operational on the Malabar Coast of Southern India in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Likewise, in Atjeh in Northern Sumatra and in Mindanao and Sulu in the Southern Philippines, suicide attacks were used to be a useful armory for a vengeful and religiously rigid and dejected people.<sup>12</sup> SB finds its roots in 19<sup>th</sup> century Russia, and has been used from Japan to the ME to Sri Lanka and other places.<sup>13</sup> Later on, in the mid of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Japanese used the same tactics during the Second World War.<sup>14</sup> The year 1978 has been an eventful year in the recent past. The 'Saur Revolution' of Afghanistan, the Iranian revolution and besiege of the Holy *Ka'ba* in 1979 was catalyst to upheaval. As a whole the events in the late eighties

provided the platform for extremism and terrorism and are thought to be the shadows of the series of the SB took place in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

A good number of people think that modern day suicide onslaught started in April 1983 when Hezbollah assaulted western targets in Lebanon. The U.S Embassy in Beirut was targeted by a suicide bomber by ramming a loaded pickup truck full of explosives, killing 63 people, with seventeen Americans. Just six months later in October, a suicide bomber blew up a truck full of explosives at the U.S Marine Corps barracks located at Beirut International Airport, killing 220 U.S Marines and 21 other U.S service members. In another terrorist attack on the French compound, 58 French employees were killed on the same day – forcing the Western forces to withdraw from Lebanon. Hezbollah then began using suicide tactics against the South Lebanese posts and the Israeli Defense Force in Lebanon.<sup>15</sup>The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam (LTTE) conducted its first suicide attack on July 5, 1987, killing Sri Lankan soldiers. Prabhakaran (head of LTTE) train the Black Tigers (suicide bombers) for one year to carry out suicide missions.<sup>16</sup>However, this trend got great momentum with the advances in dynamite and other form of deadly explosive on the one hand and on the other hand SB has become a hallmark of foreign aggression and dehumanization of a community or state. Terrorists' access to Improvised Explosive Devices (IED's) not only enhanced their potential to carry out sabotage but also encouraged them to use the explosives for SB. Recently the Al-Qaeda, Taliban and ISIS are tagged for most of the SB in different parts of the world.

### **Legitimacy**

Legitimation of violence requires a great deal of soul searching and deliberation. Categorization of violence is not made by its magnitude with respect to its human casualties rather on agency who is behind it. However, SB is segregated from other types of violence and criticized not because of its lethality but the dedication with which it is conducted. Majority of people and states condemn all sorts of violence and SB alike. Strangely, there are individuals, states and agencies also legitimizing both. There is a disagreement on the legitimacy of violence. In a world where no violence can be legitimated, all violence can potentially be called terrorism. The world is divided on the definition of terrorism. As the contemporary definitions of terrorism, are all variable and depend upon who defines their central elements, there is always a difference of not only definition but also in its application. The difficulty of constructing a stable and coherent definition of terrorism is linked to the problem of establishing an adequate notion of legitimate violence. Violence is legitimate if its basis is moral

and just, but illegitimate if its basis is immoral and unjust. Yet, legal structures have traditionally provided a more stable framework for legitimating violence.<sup>17</sup> SB is a multi-dimensional phenomenon. Its re-emergence in the present era with the international market over flooded with modern sophisticated weapons and techniques, the evil act of assassination; necro-politics have transformed man into a walking bomb. Its justification in present scenario involves a number of claims and counterclaims. Hence, its legitimacy has become controversial and contradictory. However, around the world, the state not only has an extensive substantial advantage over all other social forces in its capacity for violence, it also is the only social actor whose use of violence is legal and lawful.<sup>18</sup> Accepting right of a sovereign to decide who to live and who must die – is against the divine law. A man should not have the right to decide on the lives of others. War, therefore, cannot be justified as human lives are precious and if there is any justification of violence or war, the ultimate target is the people – who are faced to taste death in either way by being hit by a missile or by transforming his body into human bomb, killing the enemy with himself. War is war; it brings destruction without any discrimination of friend or foe. War which carries all sorts of violence and inflicts huge amount of casualties is legitimated one way or the other. Initiating a war to curtail or cure SB is unwise and unjust on the grounds that war is the blind's quest to avenge. When a war is imposed, innocent people lost their lives resulting in increase of SB. The myth of SB is shrouded by a number of factors. Unfortunately, states seem to be interested more in wars rather addressing those factors responsible for SB.

Ironically, only SB is considered as a heinous crime. A war itself should be taken as a crime and should not be legitimated. As wars are always counterproductive, spread miseries and violence. Suicide attacks are indication of socio-economic injustices, human rights violations and indiscriminate mass-killings of the deprived and oppressed throughout the world. The rise in number of suicide attacks is an ultimate result of the terror infused by the world powers and other terrorist networks. Now the state of exception is not restricted to a particular country. The whole world is in the state of exception. The entire world seems to be engaged in war and the world has turn barbaric instead of becoming civilized. Violence in Palestine, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Kenya and Pakistan radicalized and plunged people into SB. The chase is on and mostly innocent people are targeted in attack or counterattack. The state violence and to kill with a missile is justified while sacrifice of one's own life taking with it lives of those superior in conventional and non-conventional war capabilities, is unjustified. This contradiction has been the cause of violence and all forms of resistance in almost every conflict zone. The weak and the powerful are in open confrontation.

The authenticity, legitimacy and justification of violence and war is a shame for the civilized world because we see the worst display of bio-power and necropolitics and it is understood that entering into a war means to kill or being killed. The suicide bomber comes along here once again as a token of the unavoidable restriction and susceptibility of sovereign power, declining to take a life of compliance, the suicide bomber turns life itself into a lethal arm. This is the ontological boundary of bio-power in its most aggrieved and disgusting and skanky pattern.<sup>19</sup>

The sovereign never bothers about the lives of others. The question is if SB is intentional, then how killing in war is unintentional? The miseries of wars are producing suicide bombers. A suicide bomber is sure of his own death while to take with him, lives of his enemy – is his sole objective. Violence is authorized most efficaciously today, not on any priori framework – moral or legal, but only a posteriori, based on its results. The notion of might is right has become *modus operandi* in the new world order where the violence and atrocities of the potent is automatically legalized and the violence of the weak, straightaway tagged terrorism, but the logic of legitimating has more to do with the effects of the violence. The support or re-establishment of the on-going global order is what retroactively legitimates the use of violence.<sup>20</sup>

### **Nation-State**

It is a pity to be confronted with such a horrible situation where human lives face bare threats and blindly become part of the conflict. The state is perhaps failed to play its part and justify its role. The state is supposed not to enact draconian laws rather to make the laws which suit the modern civilized world. Sadly, against that the states turned to old tactics of suppression and oppression making lives of ordinary peoples miserable. In response to the brutal behavior of the state apparatus, people became violent and SB found its place nearly in all societies. The clash of mercenary and patriot can also be one of the reasons of ever growing tendency of SB. Soldiers hired for foreign services, ignore the cultural and traditional values of the local people and often treat them with cruelty and brutality. The role of mercenaries is quite disputed and controversial. They are installed as puppet regime in poor war-torn countries like the district leader of Nazi party, a Gauleiter, Chalabi and Karzai or businessmen brought into power or simply a Kurtz, ruling over subordinate people autocratically and dictatorially. Their sovereignty is no more existent, offering a modern but non-established shape of colonialism.<sup>21</sup>The growing role of foreign agencies and mercenaries in state affairs is catalyst to increase in terrorist activities and SB. So the element of violence spread rapidly and the hard liners in their retaliation commit themselves

to SB. In one of the Daily newspaper, *Aaj*, in its 5<sup>th</sup> January 2013 edition, the Provincial chief of Jumaat-e-Islami, Professor Ibrahim while blaming the C.I.A and the Black Water for committing and spreading terrorism in Pakistan, asserted that in drone attacks those terrorists are not targeted who carry out terrorism in Pakistan.<sup>22</sup>

Likewise when the state fails to take its people on board on key issues and the rights of the people are repeatedly violated and their sense of deprivation is ignored and they are pushed to the walls, they switch to the other side of life – the game of deaths – SB. Death in the present is the mediator of redemption. Far from being an encounter with a limit, boundary or barrier, it is experienced as “a release from terror and bondage”. According to Gilroy, this preference for death over continued servitude is a commentary on the nature of freedom itself (or the lack thereof).<sup>23</sup>

The role of the state is of great significance as terrorism grows wildly where the state apparatus is weak – weak to cope with the complexities of the global village. The sentiments of the people are hurt. The socio-economic disparity among different ethnicities and religious groups may bring the state towards sectarianism. That again motivates the religious fanatics to use their bodies as detonators spreading terror and violence in one city or village which is definitely inviting some other volunteers to go for retaliatory action in the shape of SB. Is this not the state failure? Or this is how the states – the weak and dependent states are exploited in either way. Pakistan is a good example of complexity of state policy and aspirations of its people. The state policy did not seem to suit its people. They were targeted in drone attacks and at the same time, suicide attacks were reported on daily basis. The people were at the crossroads in state of fear and insecurity while the state was trying hard to establish its writ.

No doubt, security of its people should be top priority of the state but at times it is compromised. Resultantly, the culture of SB flourishes immensely. This horrible situation has created a fear of survival among people. To culminate the growing militancy and religious extremism in its tribal belt, a number of military operations have been conducted. However, the military operation, ‘The Operation Silence’ strengthened the Western opinion that the Pakistani *Madaris* still being used as nurseries for Islamist militants and suicide bombers.<sup>24</sup> Canetti signalizes that in the logic of endurance; each man is the enemy of every other. He further presents the horrible picture of survival and satisfaction. In the logic of survival one’s fear at the sight of death turns into satisfaction that it is some one else who is dead. It is the death of the other, his or her physical presence as a corpse, that makes the survivor feel unique. And each enemy killed makes the survivor feel more protected.<sup>25</sup>

To outwit the security agencies, at times, the suicide bombers wears soldier's uniform armed with sophisticated and lethal weapons. Their access to highly protected areas and installations has raised many questions about their sources and resources. Not only the armed forces and state installations are their target, the innocent people are also killed in these suicide attacks. The provision of security is the domain of the state apparatus. Whenever the state fails to provide security to its citizens, the society indulges in evil practices, promoting terrorist activities and SB.

### **Suicide Bombings & Martyrdom**

SB and martyrdom are tactically mixed with one another. In fact, SB and martyrdom are two different things: SB is not acceptable in any religion while martyrdom is purely an Islamic belief having different implications. Islam is the religion of peace and does not allow anyone to tease his fellow beings. The killing of a single individual is considered as the killing of the entire humanity. So it is a grave mistake and a misperception about Islam. Being the custodian of the human rights, it strictly forbids its followers to commit suicide or carry out SB. Sheikh Abdul Aziz, the *Mufti-e-Azam* of Saudi Arabia has declared SB as unlawful. Announcing his famous *Fatwa* (edict) regarding SB he said, "*The perpetrator of SB is jahannami (will go to hell). SB is Haraam (unlawful). It is a conspiracy to mislead the youth*".<sup>26</sup> Sheikh Ikrima Sabri, the mufti of Palestine and Jerusalem declared in 2001, "We tell [our enemies]: As much as you love life—the Muslim loves death and martyrdom. There is a great difference between him who loves the hereafter and him who loves this world."<sup>27</sup> Thus, SB has become altogether an Islamic phenomenon excluding the Tamil Tigers of Sri Lanka. Yet, a segment of scholars contend that there is a close link between SB and *inghimas* (throwing himself recklessly at the enemy).<sup>28</sup> There are other scholars who justify SB providing different grounds which makes the issue more misleading and complicated. Both the Islamists and the West behave antagonistically failing badly to understand SB. In fact, Islam and SB has become a tool of blame game for rival groups. There are two contrasting notions about SB as a resisting force. The West focuses the issue around political freedom while in Muslims the afterlife-reward notion is taken as an incentive for SB.<sup>29</sup> However; an evil act cannot be justified by its objectives or incentives. Both protagonists and antagonists may have their own agenda which is deliberately or unintentionally connected to Islam. The world is divided on the issue of SB. Islam forbids SB while *Fidaeen*, to counter the atrocities of foreign or occupational forces, employ SB as a subversive tactics. American political scientist Robert Pape argued that, prior to 2003; the group that used SB the most was the Tamil Tigers, a largely secular ethnic separatist group

from Sri Lanka. Nevertheless, SB since 2003 have been mounted almost exclusively by groups espousing religious causes.<sup>30</sup>

Martyrdom is surely different from SB. The former is a religious belief and the desire for eternity while the latter is the result of over-saturation of the world's unjust socio-economic and religio-political system. The tendency to revolt against the tyrants is the result of the injustices done to them. Hence, they retaliate by carrying out SB to quench their thirst of enemy's blood and also to get rid of the trouble and hardships once for all. The self-sacrifice consists here in the removal of a two-fold prohibition: that of self immolation (suicide) and that of assassination. In its desire for infinity, the circumvent body passes across two phases. First, it is transformed into a mere thing, ductile matter. Second, the matter in which it is put to death, suicide – affords its ultimate signification. The circumvent body becomes a piece of metal whose function is, through sacrifice, to bring eternal life into being. The duplicates itself, in death, virtually and metaphorically escapes the state of siege and occupation.<sup>31</sup>

Let us analyze a soldier's attack with that of a suicide bomber. A soldier is a paid servant of the state. In his hostile move, he attacks his target in his jet plan, tank, and marine ship or as an infantry using bombs and other form of ammunition to kill. His target is mostly the rival state and its arm installations. But to pressurize the government, intentionally target the civil population. There is similarity of crime of both the regular forces and suicide bomber while loss of lives and collateral damages are deliberated differently. The intention to kill is common in both cases. The suicide bomber is aware of his death in advance which indicates his commitment and urge and intensity of anxiety. Of course nothing taste as bitter as death but to prefer death over life certainly show the agony and bankruptcy of mind of suicide bomber. There must be something very disturbing at the back of the suicide bomber's mind compelling him to willingly sacrifice his life for the cause. Perhaps, scarifying one's life in such a painful way is considered a release from all pains. This doctrine of release from all pains is followed by a majority of suicide bombers, some with religious impulses, and other with economic constraints. Hence, SB is employed by them as a resisting tool. A soldier making an assault often tastes death though they are unaware of the fact that death devours lamb and wolf alike. The only difference between the two killers is that a soldier ensures his safety and then attacks his target, while the death of other is dependent upon the death of a suicide bomber. The most important safety measure taken by a suicide bomber is to conceal his jacket and blow himself up as nearer to his target as possible and not captured alive. Death becomes his ultimate goal affixes his desire to leave a message of extreme level of depression and suffocation. Reinvestigating into the myth of SB, the state violence

seems to be significant in producing suicide bombers. The state is considered to be responsible in making suicide bombers in two ways. Firstly, when a state fails to prevent its people against any aggression, people loses confidence in the government and they revolt. Secondly, when people are targeted in state terrorism, they respond in the same way spreading violence. These two factors are catalyst to the growing number of SB.

### **Hotspot**

SB has its history and presence in different parts of the world. Palestine, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Chechnya, Libya, Lebanon, Syria and Pakistan have been often targeted in suicide attacks. Likewise, the U.S, UK, Australia, France and Spain have been the victims of SB in recent years. As a result, SB has created a state of fear and insecurity. People feel hesitation in going out as fear of suicide bomber is constantly haunting them paralyzing the routine activities. The suicide bomber is deceptive, wearing a kind of uniform that suits him regarding the location of his ambush. The candidate for martyrdom chases his or her targets; the enemy is a prey for whom a trap is set in the shape of suicide bomber. Significant in this regard is the location of the trap laid the café, the check point, the disco, the market place, the bus stop, the queue, the road side, in sum, the busy places of everyday life.<sup>32</sup>

SB has achieved a huge prominence on September 11, 2001, when Twin Towers in the U.S were destroyed by terrorists. A series of airline hijackings and suicide attacks committed by 19 militants associated with the Islamic extremist group Al-Qaeda against their targets in the U.S – the deadliest terrorist attacks on American soil in the U.S history. In their unique style, the suicide attackers hit the Twin Towers in New York City and Washington DC, USA with aero planes, killing some 2750 while injuring thousands of people. About 400 fire-fighters and police officers were also killed during the rescue operation.<sup>33</sup>This event changed the course of history and a global WOT was launched by the U.S to bring the culprits of 9/11 to justice. The U.S declared Al-Qaeda, a Muslim militant network, responsible for carrying out suicide terrorist attacks against it and with that toppled the Taliban's rule in Afghanistan whose chief Mullah Omer refused to hand over the Al-Qaeda leader, Osama Bin Laden to the U.S authorities. The brutal use of chemical and biological weapons by the U.S to hunt down the Al-Qaeda militants and their sympathizers – the Taliban, ignited a fresh wave of SB. Pakistan and Afghanistan being the battle fields of WOT, the terrorists and Taliban carried out SB everywhere, not sparing places of worship. Surprisingly, mosques and shrines were frequently targeted in suicide attacks. Taliban and other extremist groups usually claimed the responsibility of such attacks against

innocent people. Militants were engaged in bloodshed, to force it to reconsider its policy regarding the WOT. As the hard liners and religious groups were not pleased with the policies of the state, they revolted in shape of SB.

Likewise, a forced change of Saddam regime was made in Iraq to save the world from its Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). It was a grave mistake made by the then US president Bush as there was no truth in its claim. Nonetheless, Iraq was turned into ruins and ashes resulting in unending series of horrible SB to date. In the name of Arab spring, a number of monarchs were toppled by the world powers to set up democratic governments there. The Libyan president Qaddafi was removed and the state entered into a civil war giving rise to SB. On the same lines, the Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak was arrested and sent to jail. His loyalists and opposition reacted to this event in their own ways. Ultimately, the unrest, insecurity and lawlessness radicalized the Egyptians and SB got momentum there.

Syria provided another battlefield for suicide bombers. Geo-politics of the region invited the wrath of world powers. Due to foreign interference, civil war broke out resulting in numerous casualties and migration. Atrocities radicalized the local people and worst law in order left the country to bare violence. Syria is still a hot spot of SB.

The latest conflict between Yemen and Saudi Arabia has become a security threat to the region. Global powers are manipulating the situation while the element of violence is spreading rapidly and SB is used to revolt against the miserable situation there.

In conservative societies like Pakistan, any terrorist incident – especially a suicide incident, has special dimensions and sensitive issues regarding the woman folks. For *Pardha* (veil) observing societies, the scene of such incidents add insult to their injuries when their mutilated body parts are exposed to others. This aspect of SB is very painful for the victim's family as well as shameful and embarrassing for other women. Unlike liberal societies, the concern of the victim and her relatives is to keep the privacy and sanctity of the body of the victim at all costs so as to protect her from mental complexities. The victim prefers to suffer rather than to expose her specific body parts. Even her clothes are sacred and nobody can bear desecrating or even touching them. In scenario like this, SB is destructive and demoralizing for a conservative society.

A retired Israeli lieutenant Colonel, Anat Berko, the author of "The path to the garden of Eden" has worked on homicide from the perspective of Palestine-Israel conflict. She takes us to explore the world of woman suicide bombers and know about her miseries and problems regarding her association with Palestinian suicidal and terrorist organizations.<sup>34</sup> Likewise, in Sri Lanka, Black Tigers women

have their own brigades deft in SB.<sup>35</sup> Unlike Palestine, Sri Lanka, Iraq, Syria, Kenya and Nigeria, there is no trend of female suicide bombers in Pakistan. Women, in this part of the world, often become target of suicide bomber and lost their lives or sustain injuries. Their grief always dominates their injuries and they suffer a mental setback if at all survive.

### **Conclusions**

SB is a mindset and a horrible manifestation of revolt against the unjust economic system. It is the misinterpretation of religious beliefs and norms. It is the manipulation of youngster at the hands of religious fanatics and agencies. It is exploitation of the have-nots by the haves. It is an indicator of the level of respect for co-existence in a society. It speaks of weak writ of the state. It also indicates the flaws in states' foreign and domestic policy. For instance, the "carrot and stick policy" of the US has neither helped the civilian government nor the military establishment of Pakistan rather boosted SB to destabilize Pakistan. Its surmised regarding the role of Pakistani military establishment "hunting with the hounds and running with the hare" was destructive for the region.

SB is destructive and demoralizing for state. As a resisting force, it dents psychologically paralyzing any society. It injects fear more efficaciously in the contemporary world. The increase in SB is an eye opener for those who supported WOT and allowed its soil to be used in this campaign. Unfortunately, it is a war which has been started to eradicate the menace of terror but consequently, terrorized and terrified the whole world. The war-mongers failed to bring peace rather they promoted, sponsored and transferred terror and SB to all corners of the world. Deprivation and exploitation motivate people to become suicide bomber. The double standard on the issue of Palestine, Kashmir, Yemen and Afghanistan is enough to keep the SB factory running. The notorious role of different agencies like RAW, MOSAAD, NDS, Black Water etc. and strategic interests of the US and the West has created such a mess that places of worship are targeted in suicide attacks. To conclude, I must say, war is a crime against entire humanity and it can't be legitimized just like SB – a poor man's nuclear bomb.<sup>36</sup>

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